

Foe of Middlemen Here From West to War on Jobbers

A. G. Townley May Establish
N. Y. Branch of
Farmers' League

A. G. Townley, president of the Farmers' Non-Partisan League, which during the last two years has been a growing terror for food brokers, jobbers and middlemen in the Middle West, arrived in New York yesterday, and it is probable that before he returns to the West he will have established a branch of the league here.

Mr. Townley will explain the purposes and workings of the league to-night at a meeting in Cooper Union, which will be attended by producers and consumers invited by John J. Dillon, State Market Commissioner, through whose efforts Mr. Townley was induced to come East.

At the Hotel Brozelli yesterday the president of the Non-Partisan League termed the allegation that his party had disloyal tendencies "a lie."

Blames the Millers

"The charge," he says, "originates with the millers of Minneapolis, whom we are trying to put out of business. They cannot get away with that abuse in Minnesota, where the people know us."

"If we differ with any other persons in regard to the war it is in this particular: we want every one to pull to help the government along. I can illustrate my point by reference to the wheat crop."

"To get bread to the consumer at a decent figure, the price for wheat was fixed by the government at \$2.50, of which the producer was to get \$1.75. But we had a poor yield this year—only seven bushels to the acre—so in many cases the farmer was not making sufficient profit on his crops. He would have been willing to make the war-time sacrifice. But it angered him to see the miller, who was only to make 25 cents on a barrel, make \$1. All the profit the farmer was obliged to forego was absorbed by the miller. The consumer and the nation did not benefit. It is our fight therefore to see that in war time every unit in the bringing of flour from producer to consumer makes a sacrifice. For this the millers tell folk that we are not patriotic."

Only 99 Pounds of European Cheese Imported in August

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—Imports of cheese from Europe virtually have ceased, with the result that the South American product, heretofore an unknown variety, is appearing in quantity in United States markets.

Figures made public to-day by the Department of Commerce showed that imports of European cheese amounted to only ninety-nine pounds in August, as compared with 63,800,000 pounds purchased in the fiscal year, 1914. Argentina, which exported no cheese to this country in 1916, sold American buyers 448,000 pounds in August.



Of a blue Monday, what happier thought than a blue serge suit!

Or a blue chevilot!

Durable. Good looking. Suitable for any occasion.

Inconspicuous—never marks you as a one-suit-man.

Economical (if you buy a good one) for you can wear it and wear it and wear it.

"Money back" backs ours.

Everything men and boys wear, including "Scotch Mist" overcoats, good, rain or shine.

*Registered Trademark.

Army officers' uniforms.

Everything a soldier needs and wears.

A Correction.

In last Saturday's advertisement, through a typographical error, we misquoted a salesman's reply to a customer who had asked, "Will this coat wear?"

The types made the salesman say, "Not as well as a coat of finer woven fabric." What he did say was, "Not as well as a coat of finer, woven fabric."

Firmer refers to the texture, and a lot of the more moderately priced garments come in that class.

ROGERS PEET COMPANY

Broadway at 13th St. "The Four Corners" Fifth Ave. at 41st St.

"Paris in New York"
Café des
Beaux-Arts
80 W. 40th St.
Super Dances
MUSIC BY SENOR ARBOZ

Luchow's
14th Street, near Fourth Avenue.

U. S. Grain Operations Showing a Profit

Food Administration's Corporation
Makes Purchases of
\$43,446,368 in October

[Staff Correspondence]
WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The grain corporation of the Food Administration spent \$43,446,368.90 in grain purchases during October, according to the monthly financial statement to Congress. Other expenditures reported are \$28,997.45 for office furniture and \$101,086.57 for office expenses.

During October capital stock subscriptions to the grain corporation amounted to \$10,000,000 and grain sales returned \$40,438,542.90. The cash balance for October is \$40,881,693.92, as compared with \$33,438,317.47 the preceding month. The small margin between the prices paid for grain and that charged by the grain corporation will enable the Food Administration to operate the corporation on a self-sustaining basis.

The government the \$50,000,000 appropriated to finance grain operations, officials of the Food Administration predict.

Expert Tells How To Select Turkey

Beware of Virginia Gobbler,
He Says, for It Eats
Tobacco Leaf

Some time before next Thursday the housewives of New York City will visit the market to select the likeliest specimen of the bird that generation after generation is sacrificed for the Thanksgiving festival.

P. Q. Foy, the market expert, who knows as much about food as the late wheat crop.

James J. Hill knew about food as the late wheat crop. He knew about food as the late wheat crop. He knew about food as the late wheat crop.

"First of all," said Mr. Foy, "remember that butchers of the present generation aren't like the butchers of old. Ninety per cent of them know nothing about turkeys or quality of any meat. So never mind what they say."

"Pick a bird with a plump breast, good legs and fat evenly distributed along the back. Look at its eyes. If they are fresh and bright the bird is recently killed. If the eyes are all but gone it is a stodge bird. See that the breast is flexible, but not broken. Dealers pound the breasts of cold storage turkeys to make them seem tender, and sometimes break a bone. If the skin is cracked the chances are the bird has been 'massaged.'"

"When you have picked a bird answering in a general way this description innocently ask the dealer whence it came. If by any chance it was raised in Virginia or North Carolina don't buy it. It may have been addicted to chewing tobacco, and tobacco-chewing turkeys may be as tender as a milk-fed squab, but as bitter as gall."

Mr. Foy said that turkeys raised in tobacco-growing sections of the country eat tobacco leaf, and the juice of the plant permeates their whole bodies.

To-day City Market Commissioner Maurice J. Will put up cards in all markets, giving the prices of store turkeys fixed by the food administrators on Friday. It is possible that the food administrators may fix prices on fresh turkeys to-morrow or Tuesday.

British Tars Want To Learn Baseball

Officers Suggest Americans
Give Instruction; Cricket
Not Warlike Enough

BASE OF THE BRITISH GRAND FLEET, Nov. 7 (Mail).—Many leading British naval men believe that baseball may solve one of the great problems of the Grand Fleet, that of recreation. Here in the Grand Fleet are over 100,000 men who need some sort of play, and there is nothing in the list of British sports which exactly fills the bill.

Naval officials feel that baseball is the answer. But they feel also that there is nobody here who is qualified to teach the game to the navy, and they hope that in some way it will be found possible for Americans to assist in the introduction of the national game.

One of the flag officers of the Grand Fleet remarked to The Associated Press correspondent to-day:

"We who have seen baseball occasionally on the other side, or even as played by your naval men in the Far East, have come to believe that we need it here. Our men are so completely isolated from civilization in this distant base that recreation of some kind is necessary, and the islands herabouts are an institute of amusement opportunities as Robinson Crusoe's isle. Cricket is not belligerent enough for our sailors, and football is impossible because the ground is too boggy."

"We have gone so far in the matter of baseball as to appoint a committee to look into the cost of equipment, and we have also written to some of the governing officials of the game in America asking for advice and suggestions."

Land Society Reorganized Will Help European Immigrants to Establish Farms

CHICAGO, Nov. 25.—Reorganization of the National Colonization Society of the Catholic Church, with Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer, of Milwaukee, as director general, was announced here to-day. The purpose of the society is to rescue the immigrant who was a farmer in the old country and finds himself out of place in the cities and establish him on the soil. The organization has no capital, makes no profits and neither buys nor sells land.

The society is said to have made local success in starting colonies, as at Archbishop Ireland in the Northwest. The reorganization was decided upon in answer to the need for expansion to meet the war demand for greater crops. Officers have been opened here.

[Staff Correspondence]
WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—No company or individual has obtained official sanction from the War Department for any particular service flag, Secretary of War Baker declared to-day, and no service flag can be sold legitimately on the claim that it is the "official" flag.

The statement was provoked by an inquiry as to the claims of a Cleveland man, L. G. Quinn, who has written to various manufacturers of service flags demanding a royalty. Quisla brought his flag on to Washington, showed it to Mr. Baker, and then had the design registered.

Secretary Baker characterized as "incredible" a report that the President had approved this design of flag.

Farmers See Discrimination In Reduction of Wheat Price

Growers Affirm Their Loyalty, but Feel Similar Cuts Should
Be Effected in Commodities They Have to Buy.
Most of Which Have Gone Up

[By a Special Correspondent]
TOPEKA, Nov. 22.—In a recent trip East I was constantly asked as to what is the attitude of the farmer toward war problems and the extent to which he is doing his bit. The general impression left upon me was the conception of those who see the West only from a Pullman car window of an agricultural class, profiting largely, almost too largely it seemed to be thought, from the exigencies of the times, and not altogether conscious of its bounden duty in the present crisis.

The initial mistake is in supposing that farmers as a class think and act alike, without those innumerable exceptions which mark the trend of thought among any other class of men. It is true that the farmer is largely clanish, but it is equally true that such clanishness has been principally forced upon him by that invisible wall of separation, erected by the city-bred, between those who reside in towns and those who live on the countryside. Moreover, the social contact of the average farmer is generally with those of his own kind, and consequently the force of public opinion of such small circles is all the more compelling because of its circumscribed intensity.

Farmers Think Alike
It is easy to do and think as you please in a great city, but not so easy in a small village or in the society of half a dozen farmhouses. Yet such influences are largely local, so that I was all the more surprised at the general unanimity of opinion on the present matters of national import which I ran across among the farmers of all sorts and conditions in practically all sections of the West and Southwest.

I recite these things as mere matters of fact, and not either as indictments or defenses of the farmers, for you can no more indict an entire class than you can indict an entire nation. Moreover, I have found the world is full of illuminating things in the most unexpected places.

It is generally true that the farmers do not take kindly to the minimum price on wheat as fixed by the government. Nor, in like manner, do they like miners and makers of metals altogether relish the low prices established on their products by government fiat. But, if they do not, they are not, to say anything about it, whereas the farmer has not hesitated to voice his objections.

All the farmers with whom I talked—and their name is legion—insisted that they were not unpatriotic, but merely misunderstood. They said that they were perfectly willing to accept gladly the price of the principal thing that they had to sell, provided similar reductions were made in the prices of commodities which they had to buy, most of which had appreciated in price far more proportionally than wheat.

Looked for \$3 Wheat
Likewise, they were perfectly conscious that but for government regulation the price of wheat would have gone to \$3 a bushel. For, by a curious irony of fate, the prices fixed as a minimum immediately became a maximum figure. The theory of reducing the price of things they bought to figures corresponding to those he received for wheat involved a maze of difficulties and complexities, which it was difficult to explain to the average man.

What the average man does not understand is that in northern latitudes wheat is the farmer's principal cash or money crop. He sells but a very small percentage of corn and oats which he produces, most of them being fed to livestock. Such fruit and vegetables as he may raise are generally for his own use, since producing these for commercial purposes is generally a separate and distinct industry. Poultry products are usually the pin money of the farmer's wife, though dairy products are an increasing source of revenue on the average farm.

Livestock Like Money
Livestock, of course, are just like gold dollars to him, always meeting a ready sale, but there is a limit beyond which the sale of livestock cannot be carried without depleting his capital and lessening the fertility of his farm. So the farmer's story was that he had not shared fully up to this harvest in these war profits which were common to all branches of commercial business. In the harvest prior to 1917, since the beginning of the war, prices were not so remunerative, and the middleman took the largest toll of profit.

Many farmers in the earlier stages of war were unable to hold their products because of the obligations which the poor harvests of 1913 had entailed. In the Southwest and Central West there are numerous sections where there have been only from one to two general good harvests in the last five years. So when opportunity finally knocked at his door but spare chance was given him to take full benefit of his good fortune.

It was easy enough, I was told, for the commercial world to be sacrificing now, for they had made the pile, while the farmer still had far to go to equal their proportionate gain. He was unmindful of the fact, I was assured, that the things he had to sell were the necessities of life and should be considered in a somewhat different light from other commodities, even though it was his misfortune that he had only foodstuffs to sell. So much wheat was still being held, but it, steadily decreasing measure, was being taken up by the government.

The easing up of the situation is due to the usual mixed motives. One of them is the consciousness that the fine outlook of the domestic growing winter wheat crop and the accumulation of surplus wheat in India, Argentina and Australia serve to preclude any likelihood of higher prices in the near future. Moreover, there is the unanswerable argument of the price guaranteed by the government for the 1918 crop.

1% Per MONTH ON PLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

THE PROVIDENT LOAN SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK

Applications for loans of large amounts will be considered at the office at Fourth Avenue and 25th Street.

MANHATTAN
Fourth Avenue, cor. 25th Street.
Eldridge St., cor. Livingston St.
East Houston St., cor. Essex St.
Seventh Ave., bet. 48th & 49th Sts.
Lexington Ave., cor. 124th St.
Grand St., cor. Clinton St.
E. 72d St., bet. Lexington & 3d Aves.
Eighth Ave., cor. 127th St.

BROOKLYN
Courtlandt Ave., cor. 148th St.
Smith St., cor. Livingston St.
Graham Ave., cor. Debevoise St.
Pittkin Ave., cor. Rockaway Av.

on it, which has both its good and bad sides. His real problem, as with a manufacturer, is that of increasing his production per acre at a cost which shall not be commensurate with greater returns.

Germans Fast Burning U. S. Wheat, Says Expert

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 25.—Wheat fields, grain warehouses and flour mills in the United States are being systematically burned by German agents at a time when America and its Allies are facing a perilous shortage of more than 50 per cent of the necessary supply. This statement was made to-day by Erwin F. Smith, United States Department of Agriculture, before the National Academy of Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

Every grain fired in Europe, Mr. Smith said, burns up a definite quantity of the comparatively rare fixed nitrogen required as the basic fertilizer for grain. He advocated drafting for harvest work all men not found acceptable for the army. "Following the world war there will be world shortages of wheat for many years," he said.

World's Wheat Crop Shows Big Shortage

Great Increase, However, Is
Reported in Corn, Oats,
Potatoes and Rice

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—Bumper world crops of corn, oats, potatoes, rice, sugar beets and tobacco for this year are shown by estimates compiled by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, made public to-day by the Department of Agriculture. Wheat, rye, barley and flaxseed, however, have fallen below the five-year average of production from 1911 to 1915.

The production of wheat in seven central countries, not including the Central Powers, will be 1,868,000,000 bushels, 8.6 per cent of the five-year average. Corn raised will amount to 3,172,000,000 bushels, which is 14.1 per cent greater than the average production for the last five years. Other crops are estimated as follows:

Rye, 177,000,000 bushels, 92 per cent; barley, 57,000,000 bushels, 96 per cent; oats, 2,882,000,000 bushels, 113.9 per cent; rice, 70,000,000 bushels, 115.5 per cent; flaxseed, 38,000,000 bushels, 69.8 per cent; potatoes, 719,000,000 bushels, 112.4 per cent; sugar beets, 10,000,000 short tons, 106.4 per cent, and tobacco, 1,186,000,000 pounds, 120.5 per cent.

Miners Oppose Price Fixing On Silver; Call It Confiscation

RENO, Nev., Nov. 25.—A committee of Nevada silver producers, headed by Governor Emmet D. Boyle, with Whitman Symmes and S. H. Brady as associates, will leave for Washington to-morrow night to contest the proposed silver price fixing by the Federal Reserve Board. The committee is headed by William G. McAdoo, Director of the Mints and Raymond T. Baker on the silver situation and to protest against governmental regulation of price. Committees from Arizona, Idaho and Utah also will take part in the conference.

Nevada silver producers have telegraphed Secretary McAdoo that they do not object to sharing the burdens of taxation imposed by war conditions, but that they are opposed to a scaling of prices that, they say, will mean practical confiscation of many mines in the West.

1,661 October Traffic Arrests

During the month of October 1,661 violators of the city's traffic ordinances were arrested, according to the monthly report of the Traffic Court, received yesterday by Magistrate House. These motorists paid \$17,363 in fines. Fifty-four of them were jailed without the alternative of a fine and sixty-seven were imprisoned because they refused to pay. Speeding caused 570 arrests.

All merchandise advertised in The Tribune is guaranteed

No. 4 of a series of advertisements planned to reach the correct points on the chart shown below. At which point do we reach you?

He gets what competition dictates for his products, or else holds—if he can—for a possibly better market. If he is situated some distance from a railroad station he cannot often afford to raise more foodstuffs than enough for his own use, unless it can be fed to livestock. He has tried combinations in the past to get a better price but he has never got very far, as his combinations were not even nation-wide. If he should ever combine effectively we would be up against one of the most serious crises in our history.

Making Unusual Profits

He is making unusual profits to-day, and the high prices of his products seriously add to the high cost of living, but he knows full well in normal times that he will get back to a different situation when the returns on his labor will depend entirely on his skill and intelligence, and that these will at certain intervals be set at naught by unfavorable weather. For his whole life is a gamble with the weather, and in the Great Plains states the odds are often against him.

That he has done so well so far is due not alone to war prices, but to his steady improvement in intelligent methods of farming. The thing that most sticks in his craw is that of the price the consumer pays for agricultural products a large proportion abides with the middleman and never gets to him. There lies the real problem—that of a distribution which shall be more economical and more efficient. For the farmer can in the main continue to sell his products on a basis of competition, especially as there seems no feasible way of changing the plan. But if the consumer is to be benefited there must be less difference between the price he pays and the price the farmer receives.

One general statement, that the farmer is profiting greatly by the increased price of his land, is most misleading, since it has no more practical bearing than the appreciation in price of the land on which a manufacturing plant is located. It is well enough if he wishes to sell, which is the exception, or if he wishes to borrow money

Co-operative Bodies Threaten Economic Revolt Over Prices

They Plan Vast Organization
to Eliminate Middlemen's Profits

Labor Unions to Aid Credit and Banking System Will Be a Big Feature

Delegates of the Consumers' Co-operative Societies of the Eastern States adopted a plan yesterday to use the thousand scattered co-operative stores of this country as a nucleus about which to build, with the aid of organized labor, a vast organization to eliminate middlemen, simplify distribution of the necessities, and reduce prices by bringing producers and consumers into reciprocal relationship.

Nothing short of an economic revolution in the United States is proposed, but Professor Edward P. Cheyney, of the University of Pennsylvania, who acted as chairman, declared that the stress of the times, with the concomitant of ever increasing living costs, had rendered the people of the country ripe for economic revolt. James W. Sullivan brought word to the delegates that the American Federation of Labor had endorsed the movement.

The plan, as adopted at the close of a two-day conference at the Branch Library, 228 East Twenty-third Street, includes making local labor unions throughout the country centres of organization of co-operative societies, and the establishment of credit unions and co-operative banks. Working through the labor unions and the Co-operative League of America, the leaders of the movement expect the masses of the United States to be organized into co-operative or mutual welfare associations which not only will reduce the costs of food and clothing and other necessities, but, branching out, procure pensions for the aged and subsidize for motherhood, while providing life, health and occupational insurance at actual cost.

A great credit union or co-operative bank, to finance co-operative purchases, is already in prospect for New York, it was announced. A committee reported to the conference yesterday on plans for the bank, and a general meeting to discuss these plans was called for Tuesday night at the Russell Sage Foundation.

In the United States to-day there are about 200,000 persons affiliated with the unattached co-operative stores scattered about the country. The societies conducting these stores save their members large amounts through the co-operative buying of supplies. But it is now proposed to apply to the fullest extent in this country the Rochdale co-operative plan, which has a membership of more than 4,000,000 persons in England.

Mr. Sullivan was introduced as the special agent of the American Federation of Labor on co-operation, and the delegates adopted a resolution calling for the appointment of committees by various co-operative organizations to confer with him on details of the plan to organize practically the entire country in the co-operative movement.

Urges Hylan to Move For Public Ownership

League Asks Mayor-Elect to
Oust Utility Corporations
Operating Illegally

The League for Municipal Ownership and Operation in New York City, of which Mayor-elect John F. Hylan is an active vice-president, made public yesterday a letter it sent to the Mayor-elect, offering suggestions as to clearing the way for municipal ownership of public utilities in the city, and reminding him that the franchise of the Consolidated Gas Company "expired some years ago." The suggestions follow:

"First—That the Public Service Commission be induced to make a physical valuation at once of all public utility corporations under their respective jurisdictions within New York City.

"Second—That upon taking office you

Labor's Emphatic Patriotism Silences Pacifists at Convention

Anti-War Group Is Thoroughly Discredited at Buffalo,
Rank and File of Union Men Standing Firmly
Behind the President

[Staff Correspondence]
BUFFALO, Nov. 25.—Organized labor has in effect given President Wilson a check signed in blank.

That, in a word, describes the action of the convention of the American Federation of Labor, adjourned, late last night after the most important meeting in the history of the American labor movement. At this convention labor not only gave the President's war policy the endorsement hoped for, but it gave it much more emphatically and enthusiastically than the most optimistic men in the labor movement thought possible when Samuel Gompers rapped it to order two weeks ago to-morrow.

Having done that, it proceeded to go further and endorse in advance any movement looking toward the conscription of friendly alien slackers, and its closing hours gave to the President a guarantee that he would not be embarrassed by any demands that American labor be represented at any peace conference that Socialists or pacifists, on or off the German payroll, may call for Stockholm or elsewhere.

Now that all is said and done, no confidence is violated in saying that not only was the endorsement of the national war policy more emphatic and wholehearted than the most optimistic very last moment, when their leader had looked for, but the flattening out of the pacifist element more thorough than had been thought possible.

The pacifists came into the convention hopeful. But the speech of the President and the reception accorded them destroyed their hope. They remained to the end, however, always potential makers of trouble. And because they stayed many others held their seats in the convention until the very last moment, when their leader with a sneer on his face allowed the resolution on which they had declared they would make their last stand go into the scrap heap by default.

The resolution was one providing for the attendance of American labor delegates at any international peace conference whenever called. The committee to which it was referred reported non-concurrence. President Gompers asked if there were any objections, heard none and brought down his gavel. Then, to all intents and

at once take steps to oust all public utility corporations here not having legal authority to conduct their business.

Third—That upon taking office you have reintroduced at Albany, as administrative measures, the bills introduced last winter for municipal ownership and operation of public utilities here, and to provide for the termination of perpetual franchises.

"Fourth—That upon taking office you have introduced as an administrative measure a bill empowering the city to secure revenue for acquisition of public utilities by taxing land values as to reach the financial beneficiaries of lower rates for public utility services.

"Fifth—That upon taking office you expedite the solution of the problem of distribution of freight by appealing, if necessary, to the Federal government, as a war measure, to compel the New York Central Railroad to accept a fair basis for the West Side development, secure collection of the water front in Brooklyn, and inaugurate a municipal freight truck service on the marginal railway in South Brooklyn.

lyn.

—just a little in advance

Not so very long and you will expect every newspaper to take the same responsibility for its advertising columns it now does for its news and editorials.

And why not?

Your paper you read because of a belief in its policies. Any advertising in it carries for you, consciously or not, the same conviction you get from the news or editorials.

Your paper betrays your confidence if it does not protect you in its advertising columns.

1 TRIBUNE READERS who do not know our guarantee—that it means what we say and try to accomplish.

2 Women who shop who have not made shopping with Tribune advertising a habit.

3 To direct the attention of Tribune readers to the advertising columns.

4 To develop the reader's confidence in our advertisers and our advertising.

5 This message for the advertiser generally. The reader confidence developed by The Tribune guarantee pays reader, advertiser and ourselves.